Claims 11-16 require "means for receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time." In contrast, Hoff, which does provide for scheduling of data recordings, has nothing at all that receives user input for programming a recording reminder time for any scheduled recordings.

In the Action, the Examiner cites Fig. 2 and column 5, line 60- column 6, line 63. However, neither the figure nor the passage have anything to do with programming a recording reminder time for a scheduled recording or actually outputting a recording reminder time for a scheduled recording. The best that can be said is that the figure and the passage show some hardware that might be able to perform the recited acts with appropriate control logic and/or programming. However, the fact that this hardware could perform the recited acts is no indication that it actually does perform the recited acts. This is particularly true where the description is entirely devoid of anything that one could reasonably construe as evidence of a reminder feature.

Claim 17 and 20 require "instructions for receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time for a scheduled data recording; and [instructions for] outputting a reminder signal at the recording reminder time." In contrast, Hoff, which does provide for scheduling of data recordings, has nothing at all that receives user input for programming a recording reminder time for any scheduled recordings.

Claim 24 requires "receiving two or more user remind-time inputs, with each user input associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and with at least two of the user remind-time inputs differing from each other; and defining two or more recording reminder times, with each of the recording reminder times associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and based at least partially on the associated user remind-time input. Thus, for the reasons noted above, it too distinguishes from Hoff.

Claim 25 requires "receiving two or more user remind-time intervals, with each user input associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and with at least two of the user remind-time intervals differing from each other." Hoff, on the other hand, has no reminder feature for even a single scheduled recording. Thus, claim 25 distinguishes from Huff.

Claims 7, 16 and 20, which were rejected based on Huff and Strubbe, distinguish from Huff by virtue of their respective dependence on claims 1, 11, and 17. Even it the combination

of Strubbe with Huff is permissible, Strubbe does not appear to overcome the deficiencies of Huff. In any event, applicant reserves the right to address the propriety of the combination should it later be necessary or desirable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the highlighted deficiencies of Huff, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance. Moreover, applicant invites the Examiner to call its patent counsel Eduardo Drake at 612-349-9593 to resolve any issues or concerns that may impede allowance. In particular, applicant encourages the Examiner to identify any issues with the claims that have not been explicitly identified in this Office Action. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0439.

Respectfully submitted,

THEODORE D. WUGOFSKI

By their Representatives,

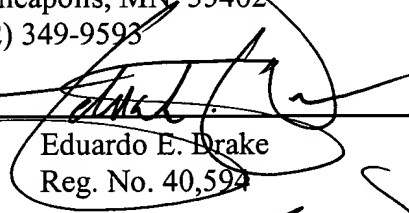SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
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Date /7 May 2000   By _____
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 17, 2000.

Name _____   Signature _____